

## March 24, 2021 Charter Review Commission Regular Meeting

**Call to Order:** Chair Kevin Ranker called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

**Roll Call:** Sharon Abreu, David Anderson, Janet Brownell, Kyle Davies, David Dehlendorf, Jane Fuller, Patty Garcia, Tony Ghazel, Richard Grout, Liz Lafferty, Bob O'Connell, Kevin Ranker (Chair), Olivia Roseberry (Vice Chair), Maureen See, Anne Marie Shanks, Tom Starr. Bill Appel arrived later. Paul Dossett's absence was excused.

**Others Present:** SJC Auditor Milene Henley, Minor Lile, Michelline Halliday, Carl de Boor, Alexandra Gayek, Kathryn Hansen (CRC Assistant), and one unidentified caller. Council Chair Jamie Stephens, Deputy Prosecutor Amy Vira, and Council member Cindy Wolf joined later.

Approval of March 17, 2021 meeting **minutes**.

**MOVED** by Patty Garcia; **SECONDED** by Tom Starr, to approve the Minutes as presented. Discussion followed. 16 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained. **MOTION PASSED**.

Chair Ranker removed Agenda item 6, related to Charter 8.20 and asked Operations to take this up in committee. Kevin also stated that there would be an Executive Session prior to the close of meeting to discuss a legal matter.

**County Council chair**, Jamie Stephens. Kevin introduced Jamie Stephens, senior Council member and thanked him for his representation. Mr. Stephens is in his 11<sup>th</sup> year on the Council and noted that he was not speaking for the Council. Jamie gave a brief overview of the duties of developing policy, managing the day-to-day activities of the County, working with the non-elected department heads on current priorities, liaising with the various citizen boards and commissions, and approving the budget. He voiced his opinions that responsibility for the budget should be transferred from the Auditor to the Council, that the three financial offices should be combined, and that the Initiative and Resolution process needs clarification.

Stephens then took questions from members about the relationship between the County Manager and the Council, the effectiveness of a Council with three rather than six members, more information about the budget process, the relationship with the Charter Review Commission and the process of moving CRC recommendations forward, management structure with department heads, absence of a non-discrimination clause in the current Charter, and work on long-term environmental concerns.

Kevin thanked Mr. Stephens for the information provided.

**County Council member**, Cindy Wolf. Kevin thanked Ms. Wolf for attending and asked for her thoughts on the Council position. Wolf characterized the Council as a 'big beast' with many moving parts, heavily concentrated in human services and public works. She described the nature of the work of the Council. She said that the County staff is professional. She is working with County Manager Mike Thomas on diversity, equality, and inclusion issues.

Wolf responded to member questions including frequency of meetings, the prospect of creating a new Climate and Environment Advocate, combining the three financial offices, relationship with the County Manager and departments, justice & equity, use of Lodging Tax funds and the Visitors Bureau, and whether the Sheriff should be elected or appointed.

Kevin expressed his thanks for Wolf's participation.

**Committee Reports.** Kevin asked for highlights only and committee leaders provided that. Chair Ranker extended meeting time to 6:10pm.

Committee reports continued.

**Open for Public Comment.** Chair Ranker opened public comment.

Alexandra Gayek voiced her concerns about funding, overloaded County staff, and time spent in meetings, suggesting that pre-recorded video meetings and educational materials would streamline time and costs.

County Auditor Milene Henley asserted that the Council Chair had made some incorrect statements about the budget process. She stated that she does not create the budget in a vacuum, adding that the County Manager speaks with every Council member throughout the process. She also said that King County is the only county in Washington without an independent Auditor, Treasurer, and Assessor.

Michelline Halliday said she attended the March 23 Charter Review Process Committee meeting, and that it was the “best meeting ever!”. She asked for the link to the Climate & Environment meetings (this was put in Zoom Chat). Liz Lafferty added that she posts all CRC and Committee meeting info on Lopez Rocks.

**New Business.** CRC Budget. This matter was deferred to the March 31 meeting.

**Executive Session.** Chair Ranker announced that the Commission would be holding an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter with legal counsel. After members of the public were excused, Chair Ranker called the session to order at 5:59 pm and reminded members that such meetings are confidential. 16 Commission members, Counsel Amy Vira, and CRC Assistant Kathryn Hansen were present via videoconference. The session ended at 6:51 pm; no action was taken.

**Meeting adjourned** at 6:52 pm.

Kathryn Hansen  
Recording Secretary

<i>Minutes were approved by consensus at the March 31, 2021 Regular Meeting</i>
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